1   1.   A method for brokering upgraded resources for
2   enabling greater functionality for a product function
3   comprising the steps of
4   collecting data describing user interaction with
5   said product function,
6   analyzing said data to determine whether at least
7   one data pattern has been identified, and
8   communicating to a user of said product function an
9   availability of said greater functionality when said at
10   least one data pattern has been identified.

1   2.   The method of claim 1 wherein said collecting
2   step comprises the step of
3   collecting interval of use data for said product.

1   3.   The method of claim 1 wherein said collecting
2   step comprises the step of
3   collecting statistical data regarding use of said
4   product.

1   4.   The method of claim 1 wherein said collecting
2   step comprises the step of
3   collecting demographic data regarding said user.

1   5.   The method of claim 1 wherein said collecting
2   step comprises the step of
3   collecting geographic data regarding said user.

1   6.   The method of claim 1 wherein said step of
2   analyzing comprises the step of
3   determining whether any threshold has been exceeded
4   by said collected data.

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1   7.   The method of claim 1 wherein said step of
2 analyzing comprises the step of
3   applying a fuzzy algorithm to said collected data to
4 determine whether a said data pattern can be identified.

1   8.   The method of claim 1 wherein said communicating
2 step comprises the step of
3   interactively communicating with said user.

1   9.   The method of claim 8, wherein said
2 communicating step further comprising the step of
3   interactively communicating by voice with said user.

1   10. The method of claim 8 wherein said
2 communicating step further comprises the step of
3   interactively communicating by a visual mechanism
4 and tactile response mechanism with said user.

1   11. The method of claim 1 further comprising the
2 steps of
3   collecting data from a plurality of users,
4   collecting user decisions from a plurality of users,
5 and
6   determining when to offer greater functionality to a
7 user based upon at least group user data and decisions.

1   12. A method for brokering upgraded functionality
2 in a voice responsive telephone personal assistant system
3 for enabling greater functionality for a product function in
4 said system comprising the steps of
5   collecting data describing user interaction with
6 said product function,

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7   analyzing said data to determine whether at least
8 one data pattern has been identified, and
9   communicating to a user of said personal assistant
10 system an availability of said greater functionality when
11 said at least one data pattern has been identified.

1   13. The method of claim 12 wherein said analyzing
2 step further comprises the step of
3   identifying a data pattern when at least one user
4 threshold has been exceeded.

1   14. The method of claim 13 further comprising the
2 step of
3   collecting data from a plurality of users,
4   collecting user upgrade decisions from a plurality
5 of users, and
6   determining when to offer said greater functionality
7 to a user based upon at least group response data and
8 decisions.

1   15. The method of claim 13 wherein said
2 communicating step further comprises the step of
3   verbally and interactively making an offer to said
4 user for greater functionality in using said system.

1   16. The method of claim 15 wherein said making step
2 comprises
3   interactively presenting said offer for greater
4 functionality in the context of a new message.

1   17. The method of claim 12 further comprising the
2 steps of

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initially starting said user at a low functionality level, and

offering greater functionality in multiple steps dependent at least upon said data patterns.

18. A method for brokering upgraded resources for enabling greater functionality for a product function comprising the steps of

collecting use data describing use of said product function,

analyzing said data to determine whether at least one use threshold has been exceeded, and

communicating to a user of said product function an availability of said greater functionality when said at least one threshold has been exceeded.

19. The method of claim 18 wherein said collecting step comprises the step of

collecting interval of use data for said product.

20. The method of claim 18 wherein said collecting step comprises the step of

collecting statistical data regarding use of said product.

21. A method for brokering upgraded functionality in a voice responsive telephone personal assistant system for enabling greater functionality for a product function in said system comprising the steps of

collecting use data describing use of said product function,

analyzing said data to determine whether at least one use threshold has been exceeded, and

9 communicating to a user of said personal assistant
10 system an availability of said greater functionality when
11 said at least one threshold has been exceeded.

1 22. A computer implemented apparatus for brokering
2 upgraded resources for enabling greater functionality for a
3 product function comprising
4 means for collecting use data describing user
5 interaction with said product function,
6 means for analyzing said use data for determining
7 whether at least one data pattern has been identified, and
8 means for communicating to a user of said product
9 function an availability of said greater functionality when
10 said at least one data pattern has been identified.

1 23. The apparatus of claim 22 wherein said
2 collecting means comprises
3 means for collecting interval of use data for said
4 product function.

1 24. The apparatus of claim 22 wherein said
2 collecting means comprises
3 means for collecting statistical data regarding use
4 of said product.

1 25. A computer implemented apparatus for brokering
2 upgraded resources for enabling greater functionality for a
3 product function comprising
4 means for collecting use data describing use of said
5 product function,
6 means for analyzing said use data for determining
7 whether at least one use threshold has been exceeded, and

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8   means for communicating to a user of said product
9   function an availability of said greater functionality when
10   said at least one threshold has been exceeded.

1   26.   The apparatus of claim 25 wherein said
2   collecting means comprises
3   means for collecting interval of use data for said
4   product function.

1   27.   The apparatus of claim 25 wherein said
2   collecting means comprises
3   means for collecting statistical data regarding use
4   of said product.